

DRAFT

**2014-17**

**Kent Community  
Safety Agreement**



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# Foreword

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**As Chair of the Kent Community Safety Partnership I am pleased to present the new Kent Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014/17.**

**The Community Safety Agreement sets out how partners in Kent will work together to address the key community safety priorities for the County, identifying the shared objectives and outcomes required to improve the lives of the people of Kent. Whilst enforcement of the law will always play a major part in community safety, much can be done to prevent problems before they arise and a great deal of effort is devoted to supporting vulnerable people and their families, tackling issues of substance misuse, improving road safety and improving security of people's homes. A major part of crime and disorder reduction can be achieved through considering and addressing the causes. The root causes include social issues of poverty, poor education attainment and training opportunities, unemployment and drug and alcohol misuse. Striving towards stronger communities, helping people become active citizens and improving personal responsibility in the community also contributes to improving community safety**

**This agreement replaces the 2011-14 CSA which included an action plan to help tackle the key priorities for the County and I am pleased to say much progress has been made by partners over the last three years, with a number of key achievements, with one example being the creation of a Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Services website enabling both professionals and members of the public to find and access the services they need. This website has attracted an enormous volume of traffic since being launched and has enabled clear links to services to be highlighted for victims and professionals.**

**Since the last agreement there have been many changes in the world of community safety from changing legislation, agency restructures and the introduction of a Police and Crime Commissioner, however the challenging economic landscape remains an ongoing concern and all agencies and services are continuing to look at the opportunities this presents in applying new methods of service delivery and resourcing. This agreement outlines an opportunity for partners to focus their limited resources towards jointly delivering against the partnership priorities.**

**The success of this agreement can only be achieved through delivery of the action plans, which will not be possible without the considerable support of partner agencies at both district/borough and county level, as well as non-statutory organisations and the voluntary sector which are vital in providing the services**

required to deliver the identified priorities and I would like to thank them for their continued support.

**Mike Hill OBE**

*Chair Kent Community Safety Partnership  
Cabinet Member for Community Services*

# 1. Introduction

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- 1.1.** The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for 2014-17 outlines the key community safety priorities for Kent and replaces the previous agreement which expired on 31st March 2014.
- 1.2.** The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Kent and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the exercise of all their duties.
- 1.3.** This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.
- 1.4.** The agreement also aims to deliver against the three countywide ambitions set out in the Vision for Kent 2012-22: to grow the economy; to tackle disadvantage; and to put citizens in control. These ambitions cannot be achieved without the commitment and contribution of all partners through their own delivery plans and strategies as well as multi-agency agreements such as the Kent Community Safety Agreement.
- 1.5.** Whilst Medway Unitary Authority does not form part of this agreement, it does undertake a similar process, suitable for single tier authorities, which will include an annual strategic assessment of their community safety issues and production of a Community Safety Plan. Where appropriate, partners in Kent and Medway will work collaboratively to tackle common priorities.

## 2. Legislation

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- 2.1.** The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities (commonly referred to now as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.
  
- 2.2.** The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced scrutiny arrangements in the form of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, as well as introducing a number of amendments to the 1998 Act including the addition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and substance misuse within the remit of the CSP strategies. Reducing reoffending was subsequently added by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
  
- 2.3.** The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 set out further revisions to the 1998 Act, the most notable of which at district/borough level was the replacement of three yearly audits with an annual strategic assessment, triennial partnership plan and public consultations. For two tier authorities such as Kent, the statutory Community Safety Agreement was introduced.

## 3. Changes to the Community Safety Landscape

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Since the 2011-14 Community Safety Agreement came into effect, there have been many changes both nationally and locally that impact upon the work of partners involved in community safety.

### Changes to Legislation

- 3.1. Domestic Homicide Reviews:** The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 and in Kent and Medway it was agreed that these would be commissioned by the Kent Community Safety Partnership on behalf of local CSPs including Medway CSP. The process is managed and administered by the Community Safety Unit at KCC. The DHR process has been developed and enhanced over the last three years and continues to involve input from a wide variety of partners from across the county and beyond.
- 3.2. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):** The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought with it a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.
- 3.3. Health:** Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) were replaced with Clinical Commissioning Groups and are now a responsible authority within community safety partnerships (CSPs). In addition, the responsibility for Public Health now sits within upper tier and unitary authorities. Close partnership working with the CCGs and Public Health will be an important element in tackling some of the priorities such as substance misuse.
- 3.4. Anti-Social Behaviour:** The new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, received royal assent on 13th March 2014. The bill aims to introduce



simpler more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour to provide better protection for victims and communities including a new Community Trigger and Community Remedy which will give people a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints. Partners will be working on assessing the impacts of the new legislation and implementing the changes during 2014/15.

### National Drivers

- 3.5. **Troubled Families Programme:** The programme was launched by the Prime Minister in 2011. Troubled families are those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector. The government is committed to working with local authorities and their partners to help 120,000 troubled families in England turn their lives around by 2015. As part of the Troubled Families programme, the government will work alongside local authorities to: get children back into school, reduce youth crime and anti-social behaviour, put adults on a path back to work and reduce the high costs these families place on the public sector each year. This programme has been implemented across Kent with partners working to engage and support affected families with the ultimate aim to improve community safety and reduce the impact on local services.

### Partnership Changes and Pressures

- 3.6. **Transformation of the Probation Service:** Kent Probation is a responsible authority within community safety partnerships (CSPs), but nationally probation is undergoing transformation to fundamentally change the way offenders are managed in the community in order to bring down reoffending rates. With effect from 1st June 2014 Kent Probation will be replaced by the National Probation Service and the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). New working arrangements are being established and these changes may alter current partnership arrangements within CSPs.
- 3.7. **Budget Pressures:** Community safety grant funding from the Government has been absorbed into the general policing grant and is now commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). In the latest refresh of the Police and Crime Plan, the PCC has committed to providing funding to the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) for the next three years to enable longer term planning for delivery of community safety activities. The funding has been protected as far as possible, however it does take into account reductions in overall funding. In addition, to the cuts to the Community Safety Fund all partners across the public sector will be subject to ongoing financial cuts over the next few years and at a time of reduced resources,

**there is an even greater need for effective partnership working to ensure that we can continue to address the priorities identified in the most efficient and effective way.**

# 4. Governance

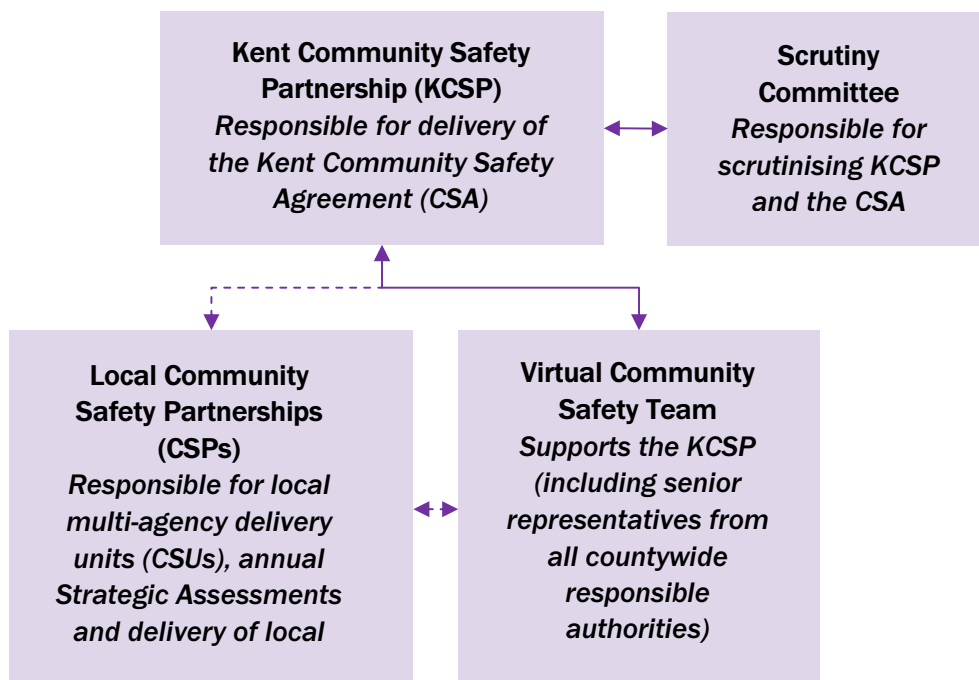
4.1. The Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) is responsible for the delivery of the Kent Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across statutory partners (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs and the County Council portfolio holder.

The Responsible Authorities are:- Kent Police, District & Borough Councils, Kent County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Kent Fire & Rescue Service and Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014)

4.2. The Kent Community Safety Partnership will be supported by a virtual Community Safety team consisting of senior representatives from all the countywide statutory partners. The virtual team will developed along with the actions plans for delivery.

4.3. The statutory partners aim to deliver effectively and efficiently the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.

4.4. The Scrutiny Committee will also serve as the Crime and Disorder Committee as required and therefore will have a statutory responsibility to review and scrutinise delivery of the Community Safety Agreement.



## 5. Key Achievements for 2011-14

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During 2011-14 the key priorities identified as those with the potential to benefit from being supported at a county level included Domestic Abuse, Substance Misuse, Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Road Safety. These priorities have been addressed over the last three years through a partnership action plan that outlined the key aims of the agreement and ensured a coordinated approach by linking into existing multi-agency partnership arrangements where possible. Progress made by partners during this time has been monitored and reported to the Kent Community Safety Partnership on a regular basis, some of the key achievements include:

- Development of an ASB strategy for Kent and Medway outlining the minimum standards of service delivery to ensure consistency in reporting and dealing with ASB issues across all agencies.
- Development of a countywide ASB case management to enable data sharing across agencies in relation to incidents and actions taken. This is currently in use by Kent Police and will be rolled out to partners during 2014.
- Creation of a website providing guidance and support for all involved in domestic abuse through one generic pathway, including details of all the available services in Kent and Medway, enabling both professionals and members of the public to find and access those services ([www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk)). Between January and December 2013 over 9,000 people visited the website in excess of 12,000 times, whilst the Kent and Medway IDVA service reported that between July and December 2013, of the 365 calls to their helpline, 24% of their callers found the details on the website.
- Establishment of a sustainable domestic abuse budget with a centralised joint commissioning process to ensure funding and operational commitment is ongoing and consistent with a particular focus on funding for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs).

- **Delivery of three lessons learnt seminars to cascade the learning from the completed domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) to front line practitioners.**
- **Establishment and promotion of the Alcohol and Cannabis Penalty Notice diversion scheme, to encourage treatment and divert people from the criminal justice system.**
- **Provision of training programmes, guidance and advice to promote road safety, including the planned development of an educational centre providing essential road safety skills for young people across the county.**

**Whilst the CSA action plan sets out how partners aim to address the overarching priorities across the county, each local CSP in Kent has their own community safety plan and associated initiatives aimed at tackling the most relevant issues for their residents.**

## 6. County Priorities 2014-17

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- 6.1. To help identify the overarching community safety priorities for Kent, a wide variety of datasets were sourced from partner agencies and have been analysed to ascertain the key issues. This was followed by a workshop with partners to identify any potential gaps as well as possible cross-cutting themes for inclusion in the agreement.
- 6.2. At a local level the eleven Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) across Kent have undertaken their annual strategic assessments to identify the priorities for their own district/borough community safety plans. The outcomes of these assessments reflect the key issues identified at a county level with some additional issues to be focussed upon locally.
- 6.3. The result of the analysis and consultation indicates that the priorities identified in the previous agreement should remain, and will continue to benefit from support at a county level. The priorities for Kent are: Acquisitive Crime; Anti-Social Behaviour; Domestic Abuse; Road Safety; Substance Misuse; and Violent Crime. These will however be subject to annual review and may be amended during the three year period of the agreement if appropriate.
- 6.4. In addition to the priorities, the previous CSA also included a number of cross-cutting themes to be addressed within each priority as appropriate. Consultation and discussion with partners indicates that retaining the majority of the themes would still be of benefit provided they are embedded in the actions plans, with the addition of victim support. As such the following themes will be included: Early intervention, prevention & education; Supporting Victims, vulnerable households & individuals; Safeguarding children & young people; and Reducing re-offending.
- 6.5. Since the development of the last agreement new legislation has introduced Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) with an associated requirement that partners must have regard to the PCC's Police and Crime Plan. As such the diagram below not only includes the priorities and cross-cutting themes for the Community Safety Agreement but also shows the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan, illustrating the importance of integrating the work of all partners:



- 6.6. Other cross-cutting themes were suggested including preventing violent extremism, hate crime, e-safety and troubled families, however these can be incorporated into the broader themes already listed. Therefore, although these issues are not explicitly referenced in the above diagram, their importance and the work undertaken by partners should not be overlooked and will contribute significantly to tackling the priorities identified.
- 6.7. Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. These arrangements can be further enhanced with links to the Kent Community Safety Agreement and where necessary suitable co-operative arrangements and joint interventions can be established to deliver shared priorities or issues.

## 7. Leads

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Lead officers for each of the priorities have been identified below and have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities. The leads will also act as a champion for the designated priority and provide regular progress updates for the Kent Community Safety Partnership (KCSP) and Scrutiny Committee as required.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead</b>
Domestic Abuse	Chair of Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
Anti-social Behaviour	Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning, Kent County Council
Substance Misuse	Head of Commissioned Services, Kent County Council
Violent Crime	Head of Local Policing and Partnerships, Kent Police
Acquisitive Crime	Head of Local Policing and Partnerships, Kent Police
Road Safety	Director Operations, Kent Fire and Rescue Service



## 8. Links to Plans

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The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to, and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies including:

- **Vision for Kent, 2012-2022**
- **Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans**
- **Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017**
- **Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy, 2013-2016**
- **Kent Alcohol Strategy 2014-2016**
- **KCC Framework for Community Safety 2012-2015**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and Minimum Standards of Service Delivery**
- **Kent Fire and Rescue Service Corporate Plan**
- **Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending 2012-2015**
- **Medway Strategic Assessment**
- **Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent 2014-2020**

## 9. Signatories

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This agreement has been drawn up on behalf of the Partners of the Kent Community Safety Partnership:-

- **Kent Police**
- **Kent Fire and Rescue Service**
- **Kent County Council**
- **Local District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships**
- **Local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)**
- **Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014)**

# Appendix A: Strategic Assessments (2014-15)

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## Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategic assessments:

All statutory partners including Police, Fire and Rescue, Health, Probation, County Council services, Local Authority services etc. provided community safety related data sets and some contextual information for use by the eleven Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in Kent during the strategic assessment process to identify their key community safety priorities.

The following table shows the results of the strategic assessments completed during late 2013– early 2014, with the common issues highlighted:-

Priority	No. of CSPs selecting the priority
Anti-social behaviour	11
Domestic Abuse	11
Substance misuse	9
Road safety	8
Acquisitive Crime	7
Violent crime	7
Reducing reoffending	3
Youth issues	2
Rural crime	1
Vehicle crime	1
Crime	1
Public Engagement	1

*There are 12 district/ boroughs in Kent, but only 11 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) as Dartford and Gravesham have a joint CSP.*

# Appendix B: Context

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The following outlines some of the reasons why each priority has been included as a key issue for the county, including reference to some of the data provided for use in the strategic assessments:

## Anti-social behaviour

- **Anti-social behaviour describes a range of everyday nuisance, disorder and crime, from graffiti and noisy neighbours to harassment and street drug dealing. It is sometimes dismissed as trivial, but anti-social behaviour has a huge impact on victims' quality of life.<sup>1</sup>**
- **"The problems associated with anti-social behaviour are complex and so are their solutions but it is generally accepted that left unchecked, anti-social behaviour brings misery to people's lives and damages communities. Its effects are most destructive in areas that are already fragile and where services are over-stretched".<sup>2</sup>**
- **Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own homes and neighbourhoods. Yet thousands of people around the country are still having their everyday lives blighted by anti-social behaviour ("ASB"). Much of what is often described as ASB, such as vandalism, graffiti or harassment, is actually crime. However, even incidents that appear minor in isolation can have a devastating cumulative impact when part of a persistent pattern of behaviour, and we know that such abuse is often targeted at the most vulnerable members of our society.<sup>3</sup>**
- **Around 2.3 million incidents were reported to police forces in England and Wales in 2012/13, with many more reported to other agencies such as social landlords and local authorities. This compares to the 3.7million notifiable crimes recorded by the police over the same period.<sup>4</sup> However, we know that this is just the tip of the iceberg, many incidents of ASB go unreported with victims rarely reporting the first incident they experience.<sup>3</sup>**
- **Compared to the previous year, the 2.3 million incidents recorded by the police was a decrease of 17% and was reflected across all police force areas, however a recent HMIC review found that there is a wide variation in the quality of decision making associated with recording of ASB, which suggests that trends in ASB incidents should be interpreted with caution.<sup>4</sup>**

- During 2012/13, there were over 57,000 incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded in Kent & Medway which is a 14.5% reduction compared to the previous year when just over 67,000 incidents were recorded.<sup>5</sup> According to more recent figures for 2013/14 there have been further reductions in reported incidents to Kent Police.
- All eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that anti-social behaviour is a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

### Domestic Abuse

- Domestic abuse is a serious crime and public health issue affecting one in four women and one in six men in their lifetime,<sup>7</sup> with women suffering higher rates of repeat victimisation and serious injury. Over 89% of those who suffer four or more incidents of domestic abuse are women.<sup>8</sup>
- Domestic abuse happens in all sections of society irrespective of race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, age, class or educational level. However findings from the 2007/08 British Crime Survey (BCS) indicated that the likelihood of being a victim of any domestic abuse tended to increase with decreasing household income.<sup>9</sup> Women living in households with an income of less than £10,000 were at particularly high risk of any domestic abuse; whilst Men and women living in areas where physical disorder was assessed as high and in rented accommodation were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the past year.<sup>9</sup>
- Nationally the total cost of domestic abuse to services (criminal justice system, health, social services, housing and civil legal) amounts to £3.8 billion per year, while the loss to the economy is £1.9 billion per year in England and Wales. An additional element is the human and emotional cost which is not counted in the cost of services which amounts to just under £10 billion a year. Including all costs, the total cost of domestic abuse for the state, employers and victims is estimated at around £16 billion per year.<sup>10</sup>
- The number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police in Kent (exc. Medway) during 2012/13 exceeded 19,000<sup>6</sup>, of which approximately a quarter related to repeat victims. The number of reported incidents have been increasing over recent years and more recent figures (Apr '13-Mar '14) follow this trend with a rise to just over 20,000 incidents in the last 12 months<sup>6</sup>

- It is widely acknowledged that most incidents of domestic abuse are still not reported to the Police, however using the Home Office Statistical Toolkit (Ready Reckoner) the number of likely female victims of domestic abuse can be estimated. According to estimates quoted in the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2013-2016, there were over 53,000 female victims of domestic abuse in Kent and Medway with a cost to services in dealing with the effects of domestic abuse and sexual assault of over £315million.<sup>11</sup> It should be noted that the toolkit is limited in that it is only designed to use data to estimate the number of female victims, however according to local data male victims accounted for approximately 18% of all domestic abuse incidents reported to Kent Police and therefore total numbers for all victims (male and female) will be greater than the above quoted estimates.<sup>11</sup>
- Domestic abuse accounts for between 16% and one quarter of all recorded violent crime.<sup>12</sup> In a study by Shelter, 40% of all homeless women state that domestic abuse was a contributor to their homelessness.<sup>12</sup> Research shows that domestic abuse is a factor in the lives of nearly three quarters of the children on the Child Protection Register and at least 750,000 children a year witness domestic abuse nationally.<sup>13</sup> Also 75% of domestic abuse cases result in physical injury or mental ill health and between 50% and 60% of women mental health service users have experienced domestic abuse.<sup>14</sup>
- The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (KMDASG) is a multi-agency partnership working together to reduce domestic abuse and change attitudes. The KMDASG has produced their latest strategy for 2013-16 which aims to assist partnerships and agencies in delivering appropriate responses to those affected by domestic abuse across Kent and Medway, assisting people to live free from abuse. The strategy is underpinned by a delivery plan to help prevent abuse, provide services, reduce risks and work in partnership.
- All eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that domestic abuse continues to be a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

### Substance Misuse

- Drug and alcohol misuse causes significant harm to individuals, families and communities in Kent and across the country. It has been estimated that drug misuse in England costs as much as £15.4 billion per year<sup>14</sup> and alcohol as much as £20 billion. Drug and Alcohol Treatment has been proven to be highly effective and beneficial for society. Studies have concluded that every £1 spent

on drug treatment<sup>16</sup> leads to £2.50 in savings for society as a whole and for every £1 spent on alcohol treatment, the public sector saves £5.<sup>17</sup>

- **Prevalence estimates<sup>18</sup> suggest that in 2012/13 Kent had more than 5,000 users of opiates or crack cocaine, with two thirds (66%) of these users being engaged into treatment. Furthermore, the North West Public Health Observatory estimate that there are 30,423 dependant drinkers in Kent<sup>19</sup>, with a further 173,410 binge drinkers in Kent.<sup>20</sup>**
- **According to the 2012/13 Crime in England and Wales Survey, levels of any drug use was highest among young people aged 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 years old, with approx.. 16% in each group having used drugs. Cannabis was the most commonly used drug, with 6.4% of adults aged 16 to 59 using it in the last year. As seen in the previous year's survey levels of drug use increased with frequency of visits to a nightclub or pub/wine bar, and with frequency of alcohol consumption.<sup>21</sup>**
- **The link between crime and drug and alcohol misuse is well established. The Home Office estimates that offenders who use heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine commit between a third and a half of all acquisitive crimes.<sup>22</sup> The national Alcohol Strategy states that 44% of all violent offences are alcohol related.<sup>23</sup>**
- **In terms of costing, the Home Office estimates that drug related crime costs £13.9 billion per year. A joint Home Office study with the former National Treatment Agency estimated that drug treatment and recovery systems in England prevented 4.9 million crimes in 2010-11 with an estimated saving to society of £961 million in costs to the public, businesses, the criminal justice system and National Health Service (NHS)<sup>24</sup>. When engaged in treatment, people use less illegal drugs, commit less crime, improve their health, and manage their lives better – which also benefits the community.**
- **As a response to a heightened awareness of national alcohol misuse, treatment services in Kent are now integrated with equity in provision between drug and alcohol services. An alcohol strategy for Kent has been published by Public Health in Kent and was released in June 2014.**
- **Analysis of client record data held by the Supporting People Programme shows that drug and alcohol problems transcend most of their client groups. The programme works in partnership to commission and provide housing related support services (including women's refuges and floating support) and out of a total 4,029 new clients accessing support services in 2012/13, 410 (10.2%)**

were identified as having alcohol problems and 368 (9.1%) were identified as having drug problems.<sup>25</sup>

- Nine of the eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that substance misuse is a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

## Road Safety

- In Kent in 2012, 50 people died, 474 people were seriously injured and 5231 people received a slight injury as a consequence of a road traffic crash. Whilst the long term trend in the county is down, for death and serious injury, this represents a 1% increase over the previous year.<sup>26</sup>
- Death and injury has a huge emotional and financial impact on society not just to those directly and indirectly affected, including crash victims, witnesses and family members, but also to the wider public purse, through the emergency services, NHS and social services. Placing financial figures on each of these impacts, the established average cost of dealing with a fatal crash is £1.9m and the average cost of dealing with a crash involving injury is £75,000. Kent Police attended 5,691 incidents of road traffic collisions in 2012/13.<sup>26</sup>
- Kent County Council as the Highway Authority has a statutory duty to promote road safety and does this by influencing the road user (through Education, training and Enforcement) and improving the road environment (through Engineering). However, road safety is not just the remit of one organisation and certain aspects such as education benefit from a partnership approach.
- The Kent Casualty Reduction Partnership (CaRe), formed in mid-2007 and brings together professionals from Kent County Council, Medway Council, the Highways Agency, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and Kent Police to focus on priority road user groups and the main factors in crashes/casualties. The vision of the CaRe group is “the effective co-ordination of local partners working in collaboration to reduce road casualties in Kent”. Collectively, the CaRe partners have endorsed the 2020 casualty reduction targets which aim to reduce killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties by 33% and child KSI casualties by 40% from the 2004 to 2008 baseline average.
- Although road safety was not identified as a priority in the initial data analysis, it was highlighted at the partnership workshop as an issue that could benefit from a continued county focus. At a local level, whilst Town and parish councils do not have statutory highways responsibilities they represent the first tier of



local government and often act as a key route through which residents' views can be expressed. Improvements to transport are likely to be central elements in Neighbourhood Plans as they are developed at this level.<sup>27</sup>

- Eight of the eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that road safety is a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

### Acquisitive crime / Theft (i.e. shoplifting, burglary)

- Theft offences cover a wide spectrum of categories including shoplifting and thefts from a person to more serious crimes such as vehicle theft and burglary. Theft impacts not only individuals but businesses as well, which can in turn have detrimental effects to an area as a whole.
- Nationally in 2012/13 theft offences accounted for 50% of all police recorded crime (1.9 million offences) and 60% of all incidents measured by the Crime in England and Wales Survey (an estimated 5.2 million incidents). Since 2002/03, the number of police recorded theft offences has shown year-on-year decreases and is 44% lower in volume in the year ending March 2013 than in 2002/03.<sup>4</sup>
- During 2012/13, just under 50,000 theft offences were recorded in Kent & Medway, which saw a fall of around 2% compared to the previous year. Areas of theft that showed an increase in 2012/13 included shoplifting, theft from motor vehicles, domestic burglary and non-domestic burglary.<sup>5</sup>
- Despite the decrease in some theft categories the actual number of offences remains high and as shown in the national figures constitutes approximately 50% of all crime and therefore continues to be a priority for community safety partnerships to tackle.
- Tackling theft / acquisitive crime is not just the remit of Kent Police and since 2001 they have worked with businesses to create a network of Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) across Kent and Medway; Kent also has the largest community alcohol partnership in the country to tackle underage sales; and the Community Safety Units work in partnership to prevent and educate against acquisitive crime, support victims and tackle the underlying causes.
- Seven of the eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that acquisitive crime / theft is a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

## Violent Crime

- The Home Office defines violent crime as robbery, sexual offences, and a group of violence against the person offences ranging from assault without injury, through wounding, to homicide.
- Violent crime has high physical, emotional and financial consequences for individuals, families and society. Estimates, undertaken in 2003-04, found that homicide and wounding, two offences included within the Home Office's definition of violent crime, cost society approximately £13 billion a year, of which around £4 billion is borne by the National Health Service and Criminal Justice System.<sup>28</sup>
- The Crime in England and Wales Survey (CSEW) estimated that there were 1.9 million violent incidents (including robbery) in England and Wales during 2012/13. Compared to the previous year this wasn't a statistically significant change, however over a longer period between the 2007/08 and 2012/13 surveys, violent incidents have fallen by 13%. Despite the fall, violent incidents constitute 22% of all CSEW crime in the latest survey, making them an important driver in overall crime trends.<sup>4</sup>
- According to Police recorded crime data the level of violence against the person in England and Wales during 2012/13 showed a 4% fall compared with the previous year with a change from 626,720 incidents to 601,134. Despite the overall fall, just under 20% of all Forces saw an increase in violence against the person including Kent.<sup>5</sup>
- During recent years there has been significant focus on tackling Night Time Economy (NTE) crime, including violent crime and there are many examples of successful partnership projects which are in effect.
- Seven of the eleven local Community Safety Partnerships in Kent assessed that violent crime is a key priority for their district/borough for the forthcoming year.

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- 23) **The Government’s Alcohol Strategy, March 2012.**
- 24) **National Treatment Agency (2012), Estimating the crime reduction benefits of drug treatment and recovery**
- 25) **Client Records 2012-2013, University of St. Andrews**
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*In partnership with*





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